

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CPR-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01

IO-10 /064 W

----- 064480

R 151949Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1247

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, PFOR, GE, US, FR

SUBJECT: US-GDR CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 161948

1. CONSUL GENERAL DISCUSSED TALKS WHICH TOOK PLACE LAST WEEK BETWEEN FRANCE AND GDR IN PARIS ON CONSULAR CONVENTION WITH XAVIER JEANNOT, ACTING DIRECTOR OF FONOFF'S BUREAU OF CONSULAR AND TREATY AFFAIRS.

2. JEANNOT SAID THAT NO HARD NEGOTIATIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE AND THAT TALKS HAD BEEN OF EXPLORATORY NATURE DIRECTED PRIMARILY AT COMPARING TEXTS ARTICLE BY ARTICLE. HE ADDED THAT THEY DID NOT GET AROUND TO SOME OF THE TECHNICAL SUBJECT MATTER OF CONVENTION.

3. JEANNOT MENTIONED THREE AREAS WHERE DIFFERENCES APPEARED TO EXIST. FIRST WAS QUESTION OF NATIONALITY, WITH FRENCH UNWILLING TO INCLUDE ANY DEFINITIONS OF NATIONALITY IN THEIR TEXT AS GDR WOULD LIKE TO DO. JEANNOT MENTIONED THAT FRANCE DID NOT CUSTOMARILY
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INCLUDE SUCH REFERENCES IN CONSULAR CONVENTIONS, ALTHOUGH HE MENTIONED THAT THERE WERE OCCASIONAL EXCEPTIONS AS IN THE CASE OF GREAT BRITIAN (BECAUSE OF COLONIAL COMPLICATIONS) AND A HANDFUL OF AFRICAN

COUNTRIES.

4. SECOND POINT ON WHICH DIFFERENCES APPEARED WAS ISSUE OF DUAL NATIONALITY. JEANNOT SAID FRENCH REFUSED TO GRANT GDR'S UNREASONABLE REQUEST FOR MONOPOLY OF CONSULAR REPRESENTATION. FOR EXAMPLE, IF A PERSON LOCATED IN FRANCE HAD BOTH SWEDISH AND EAST GERMAN NATIONALITY, FRENCH WOULD INSIST ON HIS RIGHT TO HAVE ACCESS TO CONSULAR OFFICERS OF EITHER COUNTRY ACCORDING TO HIS CHOICE.

5. A THIRD PROBLEM AREA INVOLVED QUESTION OF IMMUNITIES. FRENCH ARE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT GDR DESIRE TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE IN CONVENTION WHICH WOULD PROVIDE CONSULAR OFFICERS WITH SOMETHING APPROACHING KIND OF IMMUNITY NORMALLY ACCORDED DIPLOMATS. JEANNOT MENTIONED IN AN ASIDE THAT HE BELIEVED FRENCH POSITION IN THIS MATTER WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN THAT OF THE U.S.

6. JEANNOT SAID THAT SECOND ROUND OF TALKS WOULD COMMENCE IN NOVEMBER IN EAST BERLIN. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT FRENCH NEGOTIATING POSITION WOULD BE FIRM SINCE IT WAS NOT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO THEM TO HAVE CONSULAR CONVENTION WITH EAST GERMANY. HE MENTIONED THAT KINDS OF ACTIVITIES IT IS DESIGNED TO COVER ARE ALREADY BEING ADEQUATELY HANDLED IN A PRACTICAL WAY WITHOUT A TREATY.

7. EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER HAS APPOINTMENT TOMORROW WITH PLAISANT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL EUROPE, WITH WHOM HE WILL DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER AND REPORT ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HE PICKS UP.
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7. EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER HAS APPOINTMENT TOMORROW WITH PLAISANT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL EUROPE, WITH WHOM HE WILL DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER AND REPORT ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HE PICKS UP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, CONSULAR RELATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS18247
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: UPGRADE PER MEMO TO WILLIAM PRICE FROM J R BURKE P820102-1124
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P820102-1126, D750244-1083
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507107/baaaatvx.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: UNCLASSIFIED; CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: OGEN, PFOR, GC, US, FR
To: STATE INFO BERLIN
USBERLIN
BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006